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ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED BY GENERAL L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.

NETUNNO MEMORIAL CEMETERY, ITALY

MEMORIAL DAY, 1958

Ninety years have passed since this date was first observed as Memorial Day. It was established by order of General John A. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, the veterans' organization of the victorious Union Armies soon after the close of our great Civil War. It has been observed annually since 1868. Today, there are few areas in the world where a grateful people are not paying memorial honors to those who have given their lives for their country.

Today, in our Nation's capital, another ceremony is taking place. In Arlington National Cemetery the highest officials of our government, civil and military, and diplomatic dignitaries, are laying to final rest two more of our fallen comrades. Beside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, they are placing a member of the Armed Forces who gave his life during World War II; and another lost in the Korean conflict. Three comrades of our Armed Forces now will sleep under the perpetual symbolic honor guard of surviving comrades. Three now will "rest in honored glory known but to God".

Yesterday, I had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of Italy's Unknown Soldier. It was not only a memorial on behalf of our own armed forces to the dead of our Italian comrades. It is also symbolic of the gratitude which all Americans feel for the respect and care which the Italian people have shown for the fallen Americans buried in Italian soil -- and of the bond of friendship that unites our nations.

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MY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE.

It is a special privilege for me to return to this particular spot. It brings back a flood of memories. My first sight of Pontine plains and Alban Hills was on a Sunday morning more than fourteen years ago. That morning this blue Mediterranean was filled with a great invasion fleet. That fleet carried the VI Corps which was to establish the beach head here. In the VI Corps was the United States 3d Infantry Division, the British 1st Division and many other elements. I waded ashore in command of the 3d Infantry Division on beaches just over there. Rome, - that beautiful city, - and the Alban Hills did not then seem far away.

But they were. More than four weary months were to pass; many thousand lives would be lost; and there was to be untold destruction of wealth and beauty, before this Allied Corps would be first in Rome. It is to honor those who sleep beneath this sod -- who fell here and elsewhere in this fair land -- and through them all those of our Allied Forces and of our Italian friends -- who have fallen in the service of their country, that we gather here today.

MY MEMORIES

Gazing over the stately scene in this green Memorial park I am reminded of my first Memorial Day on this hallowed place. The battle then still rumbled in the distance. The Alban Hills were shrouded still in battle smoke. Four months of siege had wrecked the towns of Anzio and Nettuno....and had devastated these fair field and

farm homes. Thousands of local citizens had been torn from home and fireside and transported to a place of greater safety. Winter had passed, Spring had come. Mud had given way to dust. Dust hung heavy in the hot May air, stirred by the trucks and tanks of moving troops. That Memorial Day, I joined with General Clark and a few other commanders who could leave the battle for a brief period. We looked out over the thousands who then had fallen. There was no green grass. The graves were mounds of raw, brown earth -- row on row -- each marked by temporary cross or star.

We listened to the prayers of rabbi, priest and parson. We heard the testimonial of living comrades, some of them soon to die. We felt the sorrow of a grieving nation. And we promised we would never forget.

It was my privilege to come again in 1945. The war in Europe was ended. I thought then that I was saying farewell forever to my sleeping comrades, for I would soon be going home -- to the homeland they would never see again. It was a sad occasion for me, and I told them farewell here.

But I returned to Europe in 1951 on other duty. Once more in 1952, it was my privilege to come again. That year this work of reconstruction was under way. And now, thanks to the labor of comrades and the affectionate care of our Italian friends, we have this beautiful spot. We can say again: We have not forgotten.

WHAT MADE THEM DIE:

Well may we ask what made these men lay down their lives? They did not want to die. They loved life. They loved home -- the towns, cities, farms and shops, -- the rivers, forests, plains and mountains of their native land. They had no wish to be in foreign lands, -- only to be at home in peace.

What made them endure the regimentation of military life, -- the monotony of drill, the hardship of desert, jungle, mountain, swamp and waste? What made them endure the dangers of battle on land, at sea, in air?

These men, I knew them well. Their simplicity, sincerity, courage, fears, and good will. And yes, their shyness. They were not articulate in what was in their hearts. When one asked them why they fought, one got a simple answer devoid of high-flown phrase. But their hearts were deep with feeling their tongues could not express.

They loved their country. They believed in the dignity of man as an individual. They were individuals filled with great dignity. They believed in the right of man to express freely and without fear opinions in speech and print. They believed in a world where an individual might achieve and enjoy the blessings of life, secure in person and property. They believed in the right of man to worship in the religion of his choice according to the dictates of his conscience. They believed in the right of nations to have governments of their own choice under which people might live without fear. Because they did, they responded to their country's call. Those whom we honor here today gave their lives that the way of life they loved should continue in the world.

HAVE WE KEPT FAITH?

When that war was over, a rule of law and order was to supplant the rule of force among the nations. Remember? Delegates from the nations of the world met in solemn conclave before the dust of battle had settled over war's destruction. Without waiting to conclude formal treaties of peace, the delegates of the nations agreed upon a World Organization. The Preamble of that charter of the United Nations summarized the hopes of men, the causes for which these comrades died.

I quote:

"We the peoples of the United Nations

"Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which twice in our life time has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

"To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal right of men and women and of nations large and small, and

"To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

"To promote social standards and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends

"To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

"To insure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

"To employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all people, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these ends.

"Accordingly our respective governments.....have agreed to the present charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an organization to be known as the United Nations."

These are the noble objectives.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY IMPRESSIVE.

I am impressed by the economic and industrial recovery that I see about me when I return to Italy and other parts of Europe. It is good to see that the scars of war are gone from this great battlefield. It is good to see these gracious towns of Anzio and Nettuno restored to their former beauty. It is good to see a people at work, enjoying the fruits of their labor. I am glad that our own country has been able to help the people of Italy and other nations who suffered the holocaust of war recover from the devastation of battle. Would it not be wonderful now if we lived in a world at peace, where all nations lived up to the noble precepts of that United Nations Charter?

SITUATION TODAY.

But the record since the end of World War II is not a happy one. There is little need for me to remind you of it. In the first flush of victory we of the Western World dismantled our great fighting machines and returned our men and women to the pursuits of peace. After all, there were to be no more wars. We sought to make the

United Nations an effective instrument for peace -- for peaceful solution of international problems. It was not to be.

Soon there was discord among the great powers. The force of international communism reared its ugly head. One by one the Soviets, in violation of solemn treaties and agreements, engulfed nations that had once been free. Then when Czecho-Slovakia was swallowed up and disappeared behind the Iron Curtain, -- all freedom lost, -- the statesmen of the Western World realized that Europe and the Western World could be saved only by prompt and united action. Our alliance in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, -- NATO -- under provisions of the United Nations Charter, was the result. It remains today the bulwark of the liberties of Europe and the Western World.

But the march of international communism directed from Moscow flowed on like the murky waters of a creeping flood. China was engulfed. Korea and Viet Nam suffered bloody wars and remain divided. Other governments of Asia, the Arab World, and elsewhere have been and are being undermined. Only the alliances of NATO, the Baghdad Pact, and SEATO hold the more overt threat in check. And the great and gallant fight of the Hungarian people for Liberty, -- so fresh in all our minds, -- was crushed in a sea of blood under the steel treads of Russian tanks.

WE ARE STILL IN DANGER.

Let us make no mistake. The Western way of life, -- the way of life for which our comrades here died, -- is still in peril. After more than ten years of negotiations, any real agreement looking toward international disarmament is farther away than ever -- farther

away than when only our country possessed the nuclear capability for war, and offered it for international control.

Today, the achievements of the Soviet scientists in the nuclear field, in missiles, in the launching of flights into outer space, all merit the admiration and respect of all the world. The development of the Soviet economy and its industrial progress which has made this advancement possible has also been remarkable and merits high praise. But let us not forget. These developments and this progress have not been the work of free men. They have been accomplished by a tyrannical dictatorship that has ruthlessly exterminated all who opposed, whether friend or foe. Every advance has been paid for in a river of blood -- and the river has all too often flowed with the blood of its own people, -- as well as the blood of those like the Hungarian Freedom Fighters. And besides these exterminated victims, there have been untold millions who have fled from the communist terror to seek refuge in the West.

CONCLUSION.

Make no mistake. There is no such thing as 'peaceful co-existence'. Not because the people of the Western World are not willing to live at peace with all peoples of the world, but because the communist menace will not have it so. It penetrates and bores from within to undermine free governments and free institutions. And it bars by the Iron Curtain the exchange of free ideas and free thoughts no less than the free exchange of goods. In Asia, the Middle East, in Africa, in France, in Italy itself, and in all the countries of the world this cold war continues. There can be no neutrals in this fight for liberty.

We cannot say to our fallen comrades here, in the British cemetery just over there, and in the hundreds of Memorial spots all over the world: "The task for which you died has been accomplished. Your country is no more in danger." Rather should we say in the words of the immortal President Lincoln on another great battlefield:

"It is for us the living, to be here dedicated to the unfinished work which those who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."